

Please substitute amended claims 1-3, 13, 17, and 18 for pending claim 2, 13, 17, and 18 as follows:

1) (Amended) An improved blending tool for rotation upon a blending machine shaft, such tool comprising:

AG (a) a shank having a long axis, at least one end, and an end region proximate to the end; and

(b) a riser member fixedly mounted during rotation at the end region of the shank, said riser member having an outside surface with a forward region, wherein the forward region is angled outward from the plane perpendicular to the long axis of the shank at an angle between 10 and 16 degrees.

2) (Amended) The improved tool of **Claim 1**, wherein the angle relative to the plane perpendicular to the long axis of the shank is between 14 and 15.5 degrees.

3) (Amended) The improved tool of **Claim 1**, wherein the entire outside surface of the riser member is angled outward from the plane perpendicular to the long axis of the shank at an angle between 10 and 16 degrees.

13) (Amended) The improved blending tool of **Claim 1**, wherein:

AG (a) the improved blending tool is mounted inside a blending [vessel] chamber having a wall;

(b) the riser member has a leading edge; and

(c) the leading edge of the riser member is less than 6 millimeters from the wall of the blending [vessel] chamber.

17) (Amended) The improved blending tool of **Claim 14**, wherein:

- (a) the improved blending tool is mounted inside a blending [vessel] chamber having a wall;
- (b) the riser member has a leading edge; and
- (c) at least a portion of the leading edge is positioned within millimeters from the wall of the blending [vessel] chamber.

18) (Amended) A blending machine, comprising:

- (a) a [vessel] chamber for holding a media to be blended;
- (b) a blending tool mounted inside the [vessel] chamber, said blending tool comprising both (i) a shank having a long axis, at least one end, and an end region proximate to the end and (ii) a riser member fixedly mounted during rotation at the end region of the shank, said riser member having an outside surface with a forward region, wherein the forward region is angled outward from the long axis at an angle between 10 and 16 degrees; and
- (c) a rotatable drive shaft, connected to the blending tool inside of the vessel, for transmitting rotational motion to the blending tool.

Please add the following new claims 32 and 33:

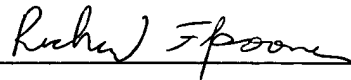
32) (New) The improved blending tool of **Claim 7**, wherein:

- (a) the improved blending tool is mounted inside a blending chamber having a bottom; and
- (b) the blade has a curved shape that positions a portion of the blade proximate to the chamber bottom.

- all  
contd*
- 33) (New) The improved blending tool of **Claim 8**, wherein:
- (a) the improved blending tool is mounted inside a blending chamber having a bottom; and
  - (b) each of the plurality of blades has a general "U" shape that positions a portion of each blade proximate to the chamber bottom.
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If the Examiner believes personal contact would be helpful for disposition of the case, the Examiner is hereby authorized to contact applicants' representative Richard F. Spooner at (585) 423-5324, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,



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